

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the General Superintendent

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Tim Melton
Committee Chair
State of Michigan Education Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representative Melton:

Thank you again for conducting the hearings related to the question of whether, under certain circumstances, the authority of an emergency financial manager appointed by the Governor pursuant to the Local Government Fiscal Responsibility Act should be expanded to include management over academic affairs in such designated districts. Thank you also for the professional management of the hearings allowing members of the public, the Detroit Board of Education, others and myself to address the House Education Committee with our concerns regarding any such legislation.

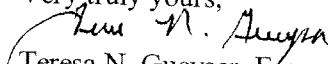
As I indicated, during my testimony, the advocacy of education for students in the City of Detroit, and beyond the City of Detroit, urgently compels our attention and our collaboration at every level of governance today, from the management of our respective communities to the management of our State governance structure. If we are to reform education in this State, such that we are preparing our young people for a better tomorrow, then, collectively, we must first change our thinking in the classroom. And therein lies the prudence of the hard and deliberate work of the legislature in adopting the reform package that is comprised within the "Race to the Top" education restructuring legislation. Without or without the federal funding, the legislature through its actions has demonstrated that it widely values the future of learning and education as a priority.

This is indeed a time for change in the City of Detroit, the State of Michigan and in these United States. However, to ensure its intended goal and completion, any change, before implementation, should be declared absolutely necessary, after careful scrutiny and deliberation. You will find upon deliberation of the facts and circumstances in the Detroit Public Schools there exists no need for new law, simply enforcement of the existing wisdom. "In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped for a world that no longer exists." (Eric Hoffer). The Detroit Public Schools looks forward to working with the Education Committee and the entire legislature in our joint quest to develop life-long learners to stabilize and grow the promise this State.

If you have any questions regarding any of my testimony, or the Academic Plan that was submitted, or if I may be of assistance on any other matter related to my responsibilities as the General Superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in my office at (313) 870-3719 or on my **confidential** cell phone at (313) 516-2107.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Very truly yours,


Teresa N. Gueyser, Esq.
General Superintendent